1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN 3 4 Stanley H. Kremen, 5 **Attorney at Law** 4 Lenape Lane 6 East Brunswick, New Jersey 08816 (732) 593-7294 7 Attorney for the Plaintiff 8 9 TRUTEK CORP., Plaintiff, 10 11 CIVIL ACTION No. 2:21-cv-10312-SJM-RSW v. 12 BlueWillow Biologics, Inc. ROBIN ROE 1 through 10, gender neutral fictitious names, and ABC 13 CORPORATION 1 through 10 14 (fictitious names). 15 Defendants. 16 17 PLAINTIFF TRUTEK CORP.'S MOTION TO DISMISS DEFENDANT BLUEWILLOW BIOLOGIC, INC.'S COUNTERCLAIM COUNTS 18 19 PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 12(b)(6) 20 Plaintiff Trutek Corp. ("Plaintiff" or "Trutek"), by and through its 21 counsel, Stanley H. Kremen, for its Motion to Dismiss, states as follows: 22 Plaintiff filed its Complaint (Document ECF 1) for this instant lawsuit 1. 23 on February 10, 2021. 24 2. The Complaint comprised one Count of infringement of Trutek's 25 United States Patent No. 8,163,802 ("the '802 Patent) by Defendant 26 BlueWillow Biologics, Inc. ("Defendant" or "BlueWillow"). 27 On May 19, 2021, Defendant timely filed its Answers, Affirmative 3.

1 Defenses, Counterclaims, and Jury Demand (Document ECF 9). 2 4. Defendant's Counterclaims comprises two Counts: 3 Count I: Declaratory Judgment That BlueWillow Does Not 4 Infringe The '802 Patent; and 5 Count II: Declaratory Judgment of Invalidity of the '802 Patent. 6 For the reasons articulated in Plaintiff's accompanying brief 5. 7 ("Memorandum of Law"), Plaintiff requests that Defendant's 8 Counterclaim Counts I and II be dismissed for failing to state a claim 9 upon which relief can be granted. 10 **LOCAL RULE CERTIFICATION** 11 6. On June 4, 2021, I, Stanley H. Kremen, explained the nature of this 12 motion and requested Defendants' concurrence in accordance with 13 Defendants denied concurrence with Plaintiff's Local Rule 7.1. 14 motion. 15 7. I, Stanley H. Kremen, certify that this document complies with Local 16 Rule 5.1(a) including double-spaced (except for quoted materials, 17 headings, and footnotes), at least one-inch margins on the top, sides, 18 and bottom; consecutive page numbering, and type size of all text and 19 footnotes that is no smaller than 10½ characters per inch (for non-20 proportional fonts) or 14 point (for proportional fonts). I also certify 21 that it is the appropriate length. Local Rule 7.1(d)(3). 22 Respectfully submitted, 23 Dated: June 4, 2021 s/ Stanley H. Kremen\_ 24 Stanley H. Kremen Attorney for Plaintiff 25 Tel: (732) 593-7294 26 Fax: (732) 312-5219 Email: *shk@shk-dplc.com* 27

**PROOF OF ELECTRONIC SERVICE** I hereby certify that on June 4, 2021, I presented the foregoing paper, i.e., PLAINTIFF TRUTEK CORP.'S MOTION TO DISMISS DEFENDANT BLUEWILLOW BIOLOGIC, INC.'S COUNTERCLAIM COUNTS PURSUANT TO FED. R. CIV. P. 12(b)(6), to the Clerk of the Court for filing and uploading to the ECF system, which will send notification of such filing to the attorneys of record listed therein. s/ Stanley H. Kremen\_ Stanley H. Kremen Attorney for Plaintiff 4 Lenape Lane East Brunswick, NJ 08816 Tel: (732) 593-7294 Fax: (732) 312-5218 Email: *shk@shk-dplc.com* 

1 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT 2 EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN 3 4 Stanley H. Kremen, 5 Attorney at Law 4 Lenape Lane 6 East Brunswick, New Jersey 08816 (732) 593-7294 7 Attorney for the Plaintiff 8 9 TRUTEK CORP., 10 Plaintiff. 11 V. 12 BlueWillow Biologics, Inc. ROBIN ROE 1 through 10, gender neutral fictitious names, and ABC CORPORATION 1 through 10 (fictitious names). CIVIL ACTION No. 2:21-cv-10312-13 SJM-RSW 14 15 Defendants. 16 17 18 19 MEMORANDUM OF LAW IN SUPPORT OF 20 PLAINTIFF'S MOTION TO DISMISS DEFENDANT'S 21 **COUNTERCLAIMS** 22 23 24 Plaintiff Trutek Corp. submits this memorandum of law in support of 25 its Motion to Dismiss the Counterclaims submitted by Defendant 26 BlueWillow Biologics, Inc. under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) for failure to state 27 a claim upon which relief can be granted.

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### I. INTRODUCTION

On February 10, 2021, Plaintiff Trutek Corp. ("Plaintiff" or "Trutek") filed a complaint in this lawsuit (Document ECF 1). The Complaint contained one count of infringement of at least Claims 1, 2, and 7 of Trutek's United States Patent No. 8,163,802 ("the '802 Patent"). Trutek is a corporation of the State of New Jersey having its principal office in Somerville, New Jersey.

On May 19, 2021, Defendant BlueWillow Biologics, Inc. ("Defendant" or "BlueWillow") timely filed its Response to Trutek's Complaint. (Document ECF 9.) BlueWillow is a corporation of the State of Delaware, and it has an established place of business in Ann Arbor, Michigan. BlueWillow admits to having developed and sold a product named NanoBio® Protect ("NANOBIO Product"). Plaintiff alleges that the NANOBIO Product infringes the claims of the '802 Patent. BlueWillow's Response (Document ECF 9) included Counterclaims consisting of two Counts:

<u>Count I</u> - Declaratory Judgment That BlueWillow Does Not Infringe The '802 Patent; and

<u>Count II</u> - Declaratory Judgment of Invalidity of the '802 Patent.

Count I alleges BlueWillow's entitlement "to a declaratory judgment that it has not infringed and is not infringing the '802 Patent." Count II alleges BlueWillow's entitlement "to a declaratory judgment that the claims of the '802 Patent are invalid."

This Memorandum of Law is in support of Plaintiff's Motion to Dismiss both Counts I and II of Defendant's Counterclaims under Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6) for failure to state a claim upon which relief can be granted.

Defendant's Counterclaims suffer from serious deficiencies. First, in support of Counterclaim Count I, Defendants stated:

BlueWillow has not and does not either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, directly or indirectly infringe any valid and enforceable claim of the '802 Patent. For example, NanoBio Protect does not restrict the flow of airborne contaminants or particulate matter into nasal passages and/or hold such airborne contaminants or particulate matter outside the body, does not inactivate particulate matter, and does not prevent infection by electrostatically inhibiting harmful particulate matter, as required by the '802 Patent claims.

(Defendant's Response, ECF 9, Pg. 20, ¶ 13.)

Defendant's blanket assertion of non-infringement does not address any element of any allegedly infringed claim of the '802 Patent. Defendant's example only introduces a scenario not addressed in the claims. No statement by Defendant in its Answers, Affirmative Defenses, or Counterclaims support its allegation of non-infringement of at least claims 1, 2, or 7 of the '802 Patent.

Second, in Count II, Defendant presents two allegations. First, it alleges that, "[a]ll claims of the '802 Patent are invalid for failure to comply with one or more of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112." Yet, it does not state which claims of the '802 Patent fail to comply with any of the four statute sections. Specifically, it does not state to which of the four statute sections the compliance requirement refers. Defendant does not allege how or why the claims of the '802 Patent fail to comply with the requirements of any of the four statute sections.

Next, Defendant cites four United States Patents and two United States Patent Application Publications as prior art references that allegedly invalidate "each claim of the '802 Patent under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103." (*Id.* at Pg. 22, ¶ 20.) But, Defendant does not state (1) which of the two patent statutes are used to invalidate (2) which claims of the '802 Patent by (3) which of the six allegedly prior art references. Defendant does not allege how and why the claims of the '802 Patent are invalid.

### II. STATEMENT OF MATERIAL FACTS

On April 24, 2012, the '802 Patent issued to Ashok Wahi ("Wahi") who assigned said patent to Trutek. Wahi is the President of Trutek. The '802 Patent is titled, "Electrostatically Charged Multi-Acting Nasal Application Product, and Method." The patented technology was used by Trutek to manufacture NasalGuard® products that reduce reactions to airborne allergens and reduce or eliminate reactions to bacterial and virus infections, such as from influenza and the common cold. A user applies the NasalGuard® product in and around nasal passages. The product exhibits an electrostatic charge in the nasal passages that restricts and inactivates virus-sized particles.

According to information and belief, sometime in 2020, BlueWillow developed and sold NANOBIO as an over-the-counter pharmaceutical product. Also according to information and belief, NANOBIO products are sold at CVS pharmacies nationwide, and online by Amazon.com. BlueWillow's website advertises that user's apply NANOBIO into the nasal passages.

Sometime in 2020, Wahi suspected that NANOBIO infringes one or more of Trutek's patents. After extensive in-house experimentation on purchased NANOBIO products, indications were that NANOBIO functions by producing an electrostatic charge in and around a user's nasal passages. The Plaintiff surmised that the NANOBIO product infringes at least claims 1, 2, and 7 of the '802 Patent. To validate Trutek's in-house experiments, Trutek submitted samples of NANOBIO products to two outside laboratories for experimental verification. The experiments confirmed that the NANOBIO products exhibit a surface electrostatic charge of the same order of magnitude as Trutek's NasalGuard® products.

Upon information and belief, just as Trutek's NasalGuard<sup>®</sup> products work on allergens, contaminants, bacteria, and viruses, the NANOBIO products work the same way. The NANOBIO products are sold to customers by Amazon.com. They compete with NasalGuard<sup>®</sup> products that are also sold on Amazon. Sales of the competing NANOBIO products deprive Trutek of sales and profits from its own NasalGuard<sup>®</sup> products.

### III. LEGAL STANDARD

A complaint must allege "enough facts to state a claim to relief that is plausible on its face." *Bell Atl. Corp. v. Twombly*, 550 U.S. 544, 570 (2007). "A claim has facial plausibility when the plaintiff pleads factual content that allows the court to draw the reasonable inference that the defendant is liable for the misconduct alleged." *Ashcroft v. Iqbal*, 556 U.S. 662, 678 (2009). A plaintiff must allege "specific factual allegations to support each claim"; "a formulaic recitation of the elements of a cause of action will not suffice." *Twombly*, 550 U.S. at 555 (internal quotations omitted). More than parroting the claim language is required to meet this standard. *L.M. Sessler Excavating & Wrecking, Inc. v. Bette & Cring, LLC*, No. 16-cv-06534-FPG, 2017 U.S. Dist. LEXIS 171708, at \*9-10 (W.D.N.Y. Oct. 17, 2017) (relying on patent language to describe allegedly infringing conduct does not meet *Iqbal* and *Twombly* standard).

### IV. ARGUMENT

A. Count I of Defendant's Counter-Complaint Should Be Dismissed Because It Does Not Allege Facts That Support A Facially Plausible Claim.

### <u>Defendant's Count I does not properly state a claim for non-</u>infringement.

The '802 Patent consists of two independent claims (Claims 1 and 2) and twenty-one dependent claims that depend directly or indirectly from Claim 2. Specifically, Claims 6 and 7 depend from Claim 2.

Independent Claim 1 recites a method for applying a formulation to the skin or tissue of an individual's nasal passages in a thin film, and the method includes:

- a) electrostatically attracting harmful particulate matter to the thin film;
- b) holding the particulate matter in place; and
- c) inactivating the particulate matter by adding at least one ingredient that would render the particulate matter harmless.

Independent Claim 2 recites a formulation that is applied to the skin or tissue of an individual's nasal passages in a thin film, wherein the formulation has at least one cationic agent and at least one biocidic agent, where the formulation:

- a) electrostatically attracts harmful particulate matter to the thin film;
- b) holds the particulate matter in place; and
- c) inactivates the particulate matter and renders it harmless.

Claim 6 depends from Claim 2 and imposes a limitation on Claim 2 such that the at least one cationic agent is benzalkonium chloride.

Claim 7 also depends from Claim 2 and imposes a limitation on Claim2 such that the at least one biocidic agent is benzalkonium chloride or lysine HCL.

Exhibit A (attached hereto) is a photograph of a NANOBIO package showing that the product is a formulation to be applied to the skin or tissue of an individual's nasal passages. The packaging claims that the product is a "nasal antiseptic solution." It also claims to contain benzalkonium chloride.

Exhibit 2 of Plaintiff's Complaint (Document ECF 2) is a reproduction copied from BlueWillow's website. On its website, BlueWillow states, "NanoBio Protect is composed of positively charged droplets that are 300-600 nm in size. These droplets are attracted to negatively charged germs on the skin. The nanodroplets deliver the antiseptic BZK to the surface of the germs where the germ is inactivated via membrane disruption."

BlueWillow claims that the "nanodroplets" adhere to the skin in a thin film (*i.e.*, 300-600 billionths of a meter). The droplets have a positive electrostatic charge. Negatively charged germs are attracted to the positively charged formulation, and they are inactivated and rendered harmless. BZK is BlueWillow's abbreviation for benzalkonium chloride. Benzalkonium chloride is a well-known cationic agent that exhibits a positive electrostatic charge. It is also a well-known biocidic agent that inactivates harmful bacteria and viruses, which enter the nasal passages as particulate matter.

Exhibits 3 and 4 of Plaintiff's Complaint (Documents ECF 3 and ECF 4, respectively) are the reports of laboratory experiments confirming that NANOBIO exhibits an electrostatic charge of the same magnitude as the NasalGuard® products.

Thus, based on the facts stated *supra*, Plaintiff established a *prima* facie case for infringement of Claims 1, 2, 6, and 7 of the '802 Patent.

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In its Answer, Affirmative Defenses, or Counterclaims (ECF 9), Defendant does not provide any facts refuting any of the arguments *supra* showing infringement of Claims 1, 2, 6, or 7 of the '802 Patent. Instead, Defendant makes a broad unsubstantiated statement that it does not infringe the claims of the patent. This does not meet the legal standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in *Twombly* and *Iqbal*. Defendant's claim of non-infringement is not facially plausible. Thus, Defendant is not entitled to a declaratory judgment that BlueWillow does not infringe the '802 Patent. This Court should dismiss Count I of Defendant's Counterclaims with prejudice.

B. Count II of Defendant's Counter-Complaint Should Be Dismissed Because It Does Not Allege Facts That Support A Facially Plausible Claim.

## <u>Defendant's Count II does not properly state a claim for patent invalidity.</u>

Defendant's Count II presents two allegations to support its claim for invalidity of the '802 Patent.

First, Defendant alleges that "[a]ll claims of the '802 Patent are invalid for failure to comply with one or more requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112." (Document ECF 9, Pg. 21, ¶ 19.) This is a restatement of Defendant's Third Affirmative Defense (*Id.* at Pg. 17, ¶ 5). However, Defendant does not state with any specificity which requirements of which statute sections the Patentee failed to comply. Defendant does not say how all claims are invalid based on the alleged non-compliance. Defendant's allegation is a mere formulaic response.

Second, Defendant cites four United States Patents and two United States Patent Application Publications which it claims to be prior art that invalidates the '802 patent by anticipation under 35 U.S.C. §102 or obviousness under 35 U.S.C. § 103. (*Id.* at Pg. 22, ¶ 20.) Defendant precedes the citation of the allegedly prior art references with the phrase, "for example." Thus, Defendant apparently reserves the right to cite more allegedly prior art references.

But, Defendant does not state which claims are invalid by anticipation or obviousness over which prior art reference and why they are invalid. To reject claims of a patent application, Patent Examiners are required to state such allegations with specificity (United States Patent and Trademark Office Manual of Patent Examining Procedure, MPEP § 706). Litigants should be likewise required to do the same.

35 U.S.C. § 282(a) provides that, "[a] patent shall be presumed valid. Each claim of a patent (whether in independent, dependent, or multiple dependent form) shall be presumed valid independently of the validity of other claims; dependent or multiple dependent claims shall be presumed valid even though dependent upon an invalid claim. The burden of establishing invalidity of a patent or any claim thereof shall rest on the party asserting such invalidity." On June 9, 2011, the United States Supreme Court held unanimously (8-0 with Chief Justice recused) that 35 U.S.C. § 282 establishes a presumption of patent validity that an alleged patent infringer must overcome by clear and convincing evidence in all circumstances. Microsoft Corp. v. i4i Limited Partnership, 564 U.S. 91 The decision affirmed the "clear and convincing" evidentiary (1911). standard long applied by the Federal Circuit and leaves the law largely where it has been for more than 50 years.

In its Answer, Affirmative Defenses, and Counterclaims, Defendant does not provide any facts to even barely support its allegations of invalidity, much less according to a "clear and convincing" evidentiary standard. Once again, Paragraphs 19 and 20 are mere formulaic recitations lacking any factual basis. Instead, Defendant makes a broad unsubstantiated statement that the '802 Patent is invalid. This does not meet the legal standard set forth by the United States Supreme Court in *Twombly*, *Iqbal*, and *Microsoft*. Defendant's claim of non-infringement is not facially plausible. Thus, Defendant is not entitled to a declaratory judgment that the claims of the '802 Patent are invalid. This Court should dismiss Count II of Defendant's Counterclaims with prejudice.

### V. CONCLUSION

In sum, Defendant's Counter-Complaint does not allege facts that allow one to draw the reasonable inference to support declaratory judgments against the Plaintiff for non-infringement and/or patent invalidity, or even what specific allegations of non-infringement and/or patent invalidity that Plaintiff/Counterclaim Defendant is called on to defend. Such claims for non-infringement and patent invalidity should be dismissed for failing to "raise a right to relief beyond the speculative level." Thus Counts I and II should be dismissed with prejudice under the provisions of Fed. R. Civ. P. 12(b)(6).

# **EXHIBIT** A

